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UMP Campus, 1959-1967

Student Newspapers

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11-18-1965

## UMP Campus, 11/18/1965

University of Maine Portland

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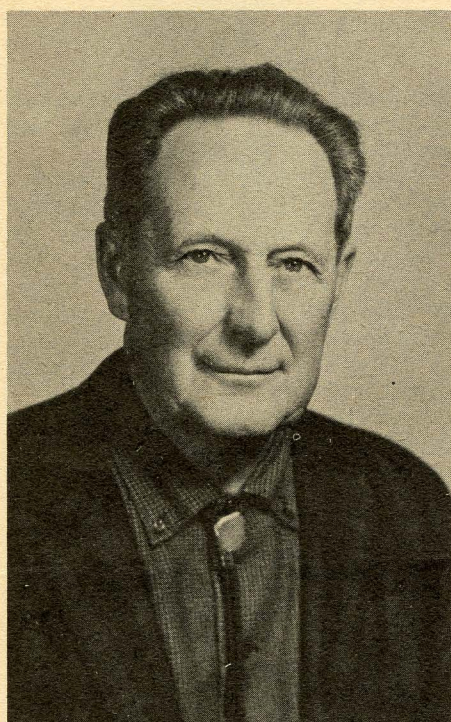
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# Dean Emeritus Luther Bonney — Father of the Portland Campus



Luther Isaac Bonney, Dean Emeritus of the University of Maine in Portland, is widely regarded as the father of higher education for young men in the Portland area. Although other attempts had been made to provide some form of local collegiate education, Dean Bonney's work in developing the college extension courses of 1933 into Portland Junior College marked the first successful program of that sort in the history of Portland.

For many years Dean Bonney worked closely with a dedicated board of trustees, selecting a faculty imbued with educational ideals and a personal interest in students. The success of this objective is attested today by the large proportion of his faculty who have continued in teaching or administrative positions on the Portland campus since the merger of Portland Junior College and the University of Maine in 1957.

Dean Bonney was born in Turner, Maine, on September 17, 1884, the son of Charles A. and Cora Merrill

Bonney. A brilliant scholar, he graduated from Leavitt Institute, taught district school for a term and engaged in other work to earn money for college, and then entered Bates College, where he achieved an outstanding academic record.

After graduating with high honors from Bates in 1906, he taught Latin and Greek at Dean Academy until 1915, when he was appointed professor of mathematics at Middlebury College. He remained at Middlebury until 1927, when he resigned to go into business in Portland; but in 1933, after a successful business career, he recognized the need for higher education in this area and devoted his talents to the program which shortly became known as Portland Junior College.

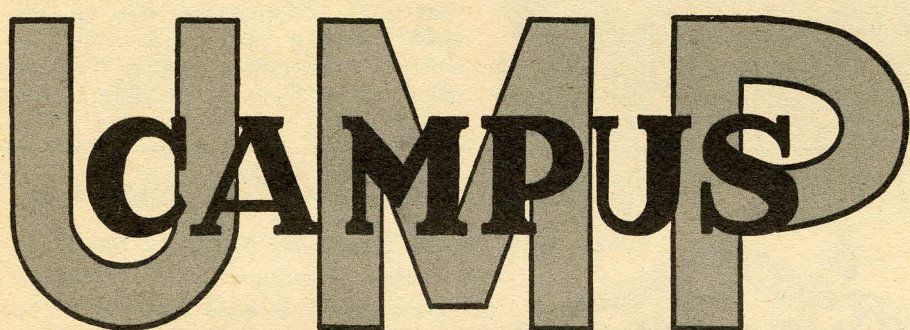
Under Dean Bonney's direction the junior college program became so successful that, when classes were resumed at the close of World War II, the trustees decided to develop a permanent campus. Under the leadership of Raymond S. Oakes, the chairman of the board, one of the most historic of the available sites in the city of Portland was selected, and the first six acres of the Deering Estate were purchased in October 1946.

The federal government provided the buildings now known as North, East, and West Halls, moving them from Great Diamond Island and erecting them at their present locations in 1947. At the same time the trustees remodeled the Deering Estate barn for use as an auditorium and restored the ancient farm cottage for office use.

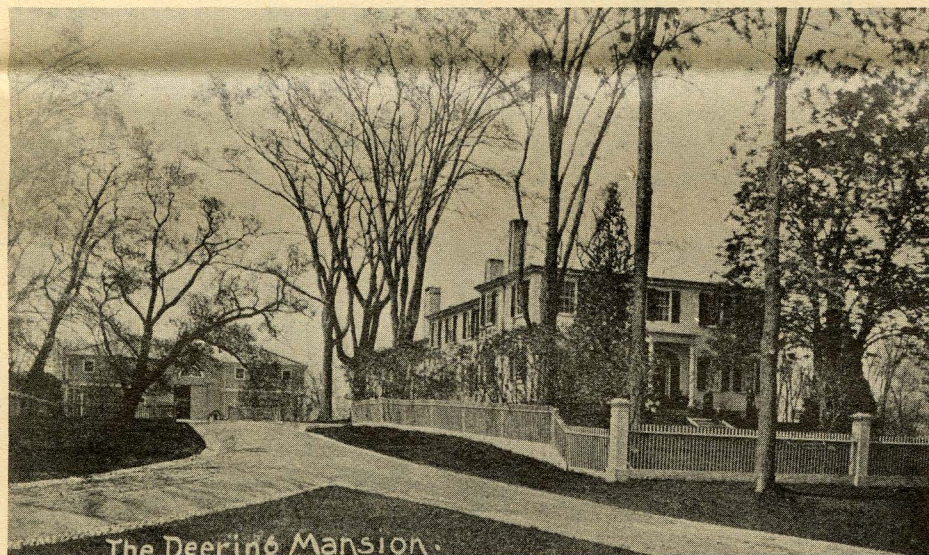
In spite of the rapid increase of enrollment on the new campus, Dean Bonney managed to find time to become personally acquainted with each student and to exert a fatherly influence that will be long remembered. Although he had passed the conventional age of retirement, he remained youthful in spirit and alert in all aspects of administration, guiding the destiny of Portland Junior College until its merger with the University of Maine was completed in the summer of 1957.

Since that time Dean Bonney has received several well-deserved honors. Bates College had awarded him an honorary degree of M.A. in 1951. The University of Maine trustees, at their meeting of December 2, 1958, appointed him Dean Emeritus, retroactive to July 1, 1957. Following this, in 1959, they voted to confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Science in Education.

Dean Emeritus Bonney is still engaged in education and receiving academic honors, his most recent honorary degree being that of Doctor of Humane Letters, conferred by Nason College in 1965. Now living near his boyhood home in Turner with his partner of the years, Catharine Bigelow Bonney, he teaches the Latin courses at Leavitt Institute, from which he graduated in 1901. Dean Bonney has devoted a lifetime to the advancement of education, and it is entirely fitting and proper that the university's new building on the Portland campus, which he did so much to develop, should be named in his honor.



Volume 9, No. 4, UNIVERSITY OF MAINE IN PORTLAND Nov. 18, 1965



## A Location Rich in Three Centuries of History

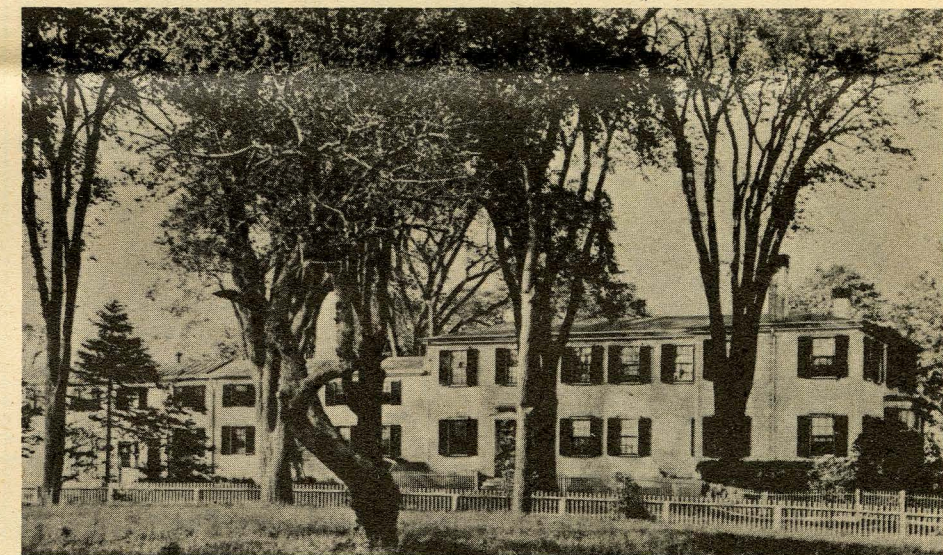
Luther I. Bonney Hall has been constructed with "faith in the future," but the foundations of this building are sunk into a granite knoll that is rich in more than 300 years of recorded history. The land surrounding this building was first cleared for settlement during the lifetime of George Cleeves, who obtained it from Sir Ferdinando Gorges in 1637.

Two of Portland's bloodiest Indian forays took place within a gunshot of this site. The first, in 1676, wiped out all nearby habitations and a number of the settlers; but Anthony Brackett and his first wife, Ann, who had inherited this land from her grandfather, George Cleeves, were captured alive, together with one of their five children and a negro servant.

The Bracketts eventually escaped their Indian captors, found an abandoned birch bark canoe which Ann managed to mend with her house-

wife's thread and needle, and made their way back to build another home near the present location of Bonney Hall. It is recorded that they planted an orchard on the slope between the site of Bonney Hall and the tidal creek which then extended through the near edge of Deering Oaks, and it was there that catastrophe struck some thirteen years later.

On September 1, 1689, the opening shots of the first major battle of the Second Indian War of 1689-1697 rang out in that orchard. Captain Anthony Brackett was slain and his farmstead destroyed; but the colonists from the other side of Deering Oaks, assisted by troops under the command of Major Benjamin Church, after many casualties succeeded in repelling a party of Indian invaders estimated at more than two hundred strong. The victory was short-lived, and subsequent attacks drove all English settlers from this part of Maine for nearly 26 years.



It was not until 1715 that Zachariah Brackett returned to claim his father's land. Once again a farm was established on this site. The precise location of the dwelling house is unknown, but it was probably close to that of the colonial farm house at the western corner of the campus, a building which was constructed somewhat later in the same century.

The Back Cove Farm, as the place was called, remained in the possession of the Brackett family until 1740, when it was sold by Zachariah Brackett to Joseph Noyes. It then passed by inheritance to Josiah Noyes who, because his wife came from the Lunt family, devised it to Mr. and Mrs. Amos Lunt. The Lunts eventually sold it to James Deering, the son of a prosperous Portland merchant in 1802.

Under the Deering ownership the Back Cove Farm became transformed into a businessman's country estate, farmed according to best methods of the time by hired hands who tended an acreage embracing almost all the land between the present boundaries of Forest and Deering Avenues from the Deering Oaks area and extending some distance westerly.

By 1804 James Deering had com-

pleted the construction of a substantial two-story wooden mansion of Federal architecture, the center of the main house being approximately where the bronze plaque honoring Luther I. Bonney is now mounted. A large wing, also two stories high, extended behind the house and was joined to another slightly lower wing containing the kitchen and service quarters. Detached buildings, including a sheep barn, carriage houses, and a half-buried ice house extended farther back, approximately in line with the southwest front of the new library. The main barn, converted a century and a half later into an auditorium, now used as a gymnasium, was separated from the carriage houses by a driveway.

Tradition has it that prisoners were housed in one section of a rear wing during the War of 1812. We know that some forty privateers were registered in Portland at that time and that nearly fifty prize ships were brought into port. It is quite possible that some officers of captured British prizes may have been boarded at the Deering Mansion until they could be exchanged.

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# Noted Persons At Ceremonies

By SHEILA BENNER

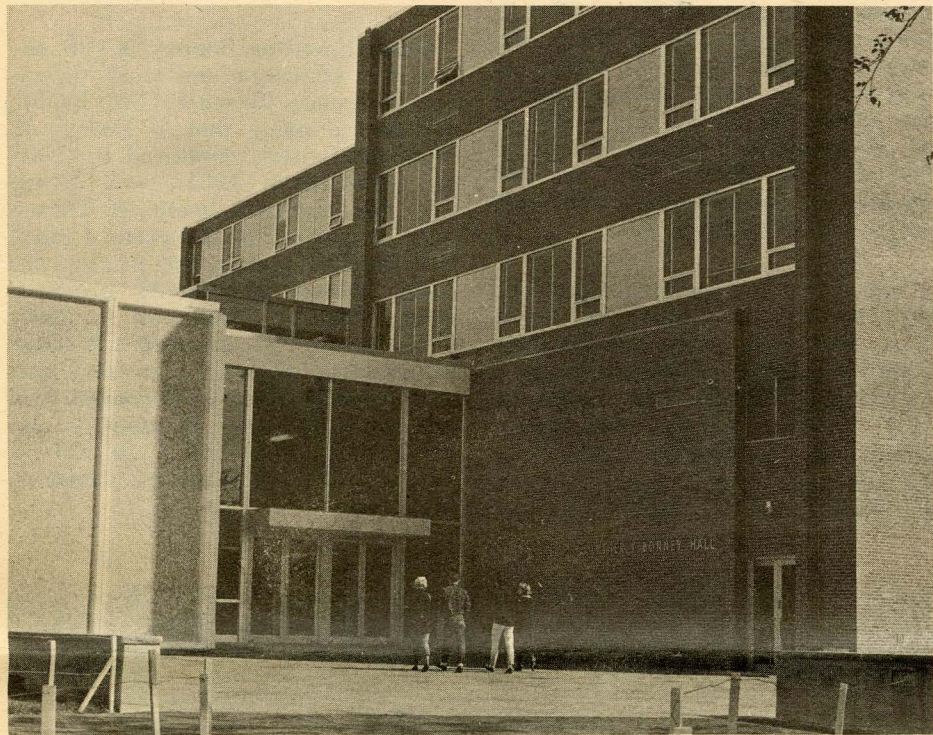
The dedication of Luther Bonney Hall, with distinguished platform speakers, is being held today at 4 P. M. in the building's first floor lecture hall. After the ceremony, an open house will be conducted from 5 to 9 P. M. at which time all the buildings on campus will be open for visitors.

Although the ceremonies are open to the public, special invitations have been extended to noted persons including University officials, Congressional delegates from Maine, and Maine's governor.

The two story-level library is expected to be one of the highpoints of the new building. Its size and additional facilities, such as the music

room, make the new library a great improvement over previous facilities. Although the shelves will appear rather empty as they are now, the visitors will notice that plans for an extensive collection of volumes in the future were considered when the library was planned.

The art rooms on the fourth floor will be another center of attraction. Mrs. Jeana Bearce, the head of the art department, is intending to have on display examples of hand-painted East Indian cloths. An art authority will be on hand to answer questions about them. Also on display will be the works of Mrs. Bearce's drawing classes.



The treatment of the main entrance and patio of Luther I. Bonney Hall was personally designed by Philip S. Wadsworth of

Wadsworth, Boston, Dimick, Mercer & Weatherill, the architectural firm which planned the building.

Another tradition has it that the site of Bonney Hall was strongly advocated as the location for the Maine capitol building after statehood was achieved in 1820. Augusta was not selected as our official capital until 1827, and the Maine legislature met at Portland from 1820 to 1832.

Be all this as it may, the mansion on the site of Bonney Hall was visited by nearly every celebrity who spent much time in Portland during the mid-nineteenth century. James Deering entertained extensively and he had excellent social connections. His only sister was the wife of Commodore Edward Preble who subdued the Barbary pirates and became known as the Father of the U.S. Navy. Such notables as Daniel Webster, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and Secretary of War Jefferson Davis enjoyed the hospitality of the Deering Mansion.

It was not until some years after the Civil War that the Deering family of the farm land that surrounded the mansion. A "Bird's Eye View of Portland," dated 1875, shows a single railroad track straggling along Forest Avenue, but not a single building lies between that track and Deering Avenue, save the Deering Mansion and its satellite farm buildings. The only cross roads are Winslow Street and Bedford Street, both of which look as if they exist chiefly for the convenience of the Deerings and their guests.

Finally, in 1879, the Deerings sold the city of Portland a good portion of Deering Oaks, consolidating the limits of the mansion real estate entirely within the municipal boundaries of the new town of Deering, which had been named in honor of

James Deering. When the mansion had been constructed, it was in the town of Falmouth. Then the western part of Falmouth had been set off as Westbrook in 1814. The eastern section of Westbrook had been made the town of Deering in 1871, and Deering remained a separate municipality until it was annexed by the city of Portland in 1899.

The Great Fire of Portland of 1866 had caused many prominent families to move into the Deering area, and the demand for house lots eventually induced the Deering family to sell the outlying sections of the farm. By the time Portland Junior College, under the leadership of Dean Luther I. Bonney and Raymond S.Oakes, the chairman of the board of trustees, started acquiring the Deering Estate in 1946, the total available acreage had shrunk to less than eighteen acres, and the proud mansion had fallen into such disrepair that it had to be torn down shortly afterwards. The trustees, however, were able to remind the students of their heritage from the past by transforming the 1804 barn into an auditorium and renovating the much older farm cottage for office use.

When in 1957 the merger between the University of Maine and Portland Junior College was enacted, the university fell heir to its oldest documented linkage with early colonial history, together with its only two buildings that can remind us of the days of the founding fathers of our nation.

Luther I. Bonney Hall is dedicated to the educational outreach of the future, but it is founded on a site for which our colonial forebears battled and gave their life's blood almost three centuries ago.



By GEORGE S. CHAPPELL

A statement was pulled out of context, distorted, and, in one fell swoop, became: a campaign issue, a threat to our personal freedom, and a near ruination to a college professor's career.

Dr. Eugene Genovese, professor of history at Rutgers University, said at a Columbia University "teach-in" last April, "... I do not fear or regret the impending Vietcong victory. I welcome it." This was the often quoted and often misused part of Dr. Genovese's speech. The general tone of the speech did imply, however, that he opposed the U. S. policy in Vietnam.

New Jersey State Senator Wayne Dumont, unsuccessful Republican gubernatorial aspirant, attacked his political opponent, Governor Richard Hughes, for not having demanded Mr. Genovese's dismissal. Governor Hughes and the Rutgers' Board of Trustees held their ground against Dumont's increasingly popular attacks, however, and refused to censure Dr. Genovese for having exercised his academic freedom.

Dr. Genovese was thoroughly investigated, and finally cleared of the absurd, bull-headed charge that he

# Prospectus

had used the classroom to express his political opinions. Nonetheless, his reputation has suffered.

I feel that, although Mr. Genovese does not voice the opinion of the majority in this country concerning the Vietnamese War, he does have every right to air his prejudices. It would be a definite suppressing of our intellectual growth if suddenly all views opposing those of the majority were stifled.

Had Genovese been discharged for his statement, then this act could have preceded what could become a slow and subtle swallowing up of our personal liberty. With the recent surge in demonstrations for and against military, political, and social issues, we must painfully examine the effects of those demonstrations on our civil rights.

Let us not awaken one morning, only to discover that we have, in the heat of passion, approved of a law that will either prohibit or restrict our daily activities. We must remember that although we may despise what another says or demonstrates for, we must not take away his right to disagree. Or is it our right to disagree?

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# The Sports Scene



By ED GORHAM

"... A corridor of wreckage and destruction... through which sped, not fast but rather with the ruthless and irresistible deliberation of a locomotive, the shaggy, tremendous shape... it loomed and towered tremendously, red-eyed, not malevolent, but just big..." If you do not recognize it, ask the intramural football league teams what it is. Most of them will tell you that it is a bunch of bandits from High Street, the Law School Football Team.

Looking like a line of animated fire plugs, this team swept its way to the football championship in the last game of the year by defeating the Humpers, 6-0. The defensive efforts of both teams were remarkable. The first half of the game saw the Whizzers and the Humpers execute several goal-line stands. One series would see the Whizzers cream the Humper's quarterback, the next would see the Humpers knock down or intercept a Whizzer's pass. Thus the game saw-sawed until late in the second half. The telling blow came when Whizzer quarterback Ray Shevenell lofted a forty-yard aerial to his star receiver Bill Julavits in the end zone. Despite the fact that he was being covered by three Humper defenders, Julavits managed to catch the ball, in what must have been the most sensational catch of the season.

So ended the football season, with the anti-climax to come in May when the champions of juris prudence and tag football receive their trophies at the Athletic Banquet.

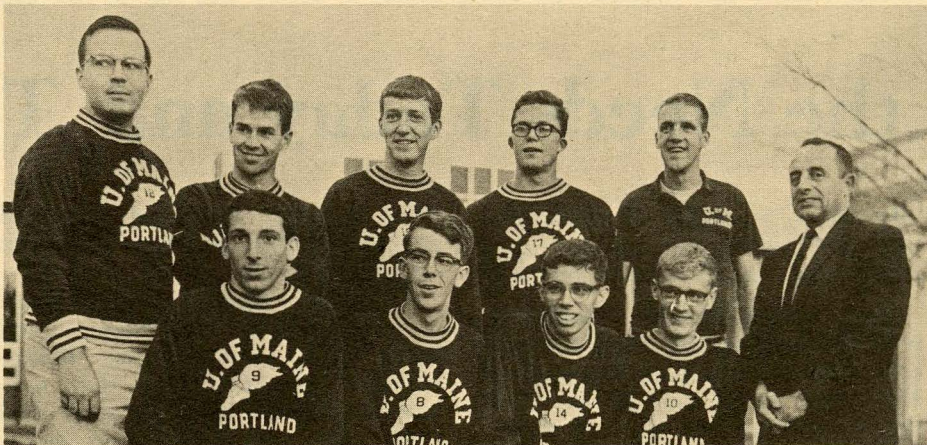
Up until this season, UMP had never had a winning cross country season and seldom had a winning team. However, this year's team ran up an impressive 7-2 record. Steady Dave Galli took four dual-meet first places, a triangular first place, and a quadrangular first place for an amazing nine first places in nine meets, setting or equalling records in all but two meets.

The next high-scoring UMP runners behind Dave Galli were Cal True, George Williams, Frank Capozza, and Lee Drowns. These top five accounted for the bulk of UMP scoring this season. Others running just a little farther back were Dick Gaudreau, Terry Towle, Steve McCurdy, Rick Bonaventura, and Bruce Gass.

Under the tutelage of Head coach John Cassavola, assistant coach Tom Martin, and trainer Dan Googins, this team trained and worked out diligently, asking for little support from the student body and receiving little. It seems the squad will have to wait until the May banquet to receive its due accolades. The efforts of manager Len Brooks have not gone unnoticed by the team members and the athletic department. Congratulations to all those connected with the cross country squad this season. The fact that the top runners this season are freshmen may indicate that the UMP cross country team will soon be running against the major schools of New England. We trust that all, including Mecca, will be vanquished.



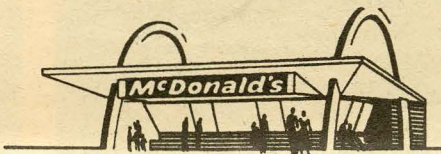
The Law School Whizzers, our winning intramural football team. Front row: David Smith, Basil Kellis, Prof. Cornelius Murphy (manager), Patrick Maloney, and Raymond Shevenell. Back row: Bill Julavits, Peter Weatherbee, Paul Hirsch, and Joe Ezhaya.



Front row: Frank Capozza; Cal True; Rick Bonaventura; Dick Gaudreau; Coach John Cassavola  
Back row: Manager, Len Brooks; Dave Galli; Lee Drowns; George Williams; Assistant Coach Tom Martin.

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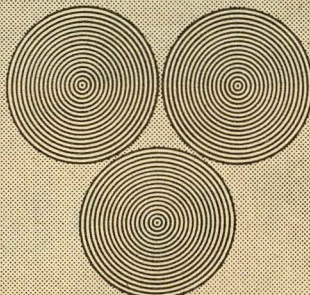


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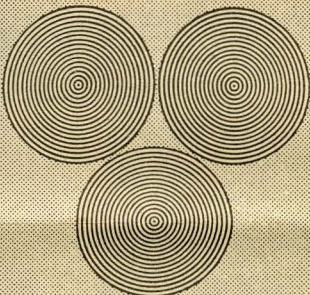
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one of the  
finest motion  
pictures in  
many years..."

CORONET MAGAZINE



The Pawnbroker  
is "A shockingly  
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flawlessly  
acted."

-RICHARD OULAHAN  
LIFE MAGAZINE APRIL 2, 1965



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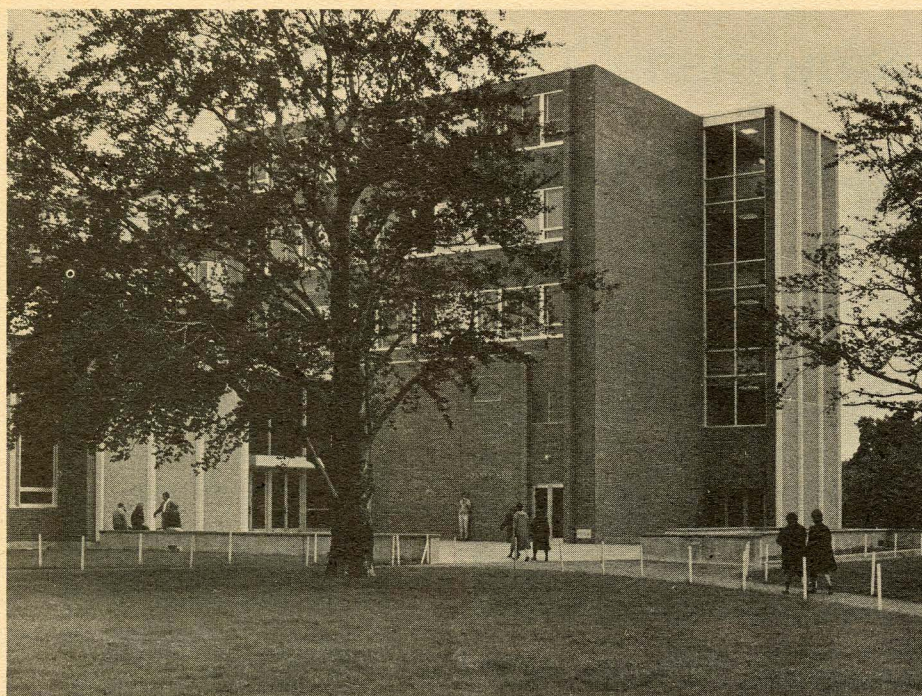
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Where the 1804 Deering Mansion once dominated the hilltop, Luther I. Bonney Hall and the new library wing now stand.

## To Meet the Needs Today and Tomorrow

Luther I. Bonney Hall is designed to provide the best possible environment for university education today and also to be readily adaptable for the future, when an increased use of various electronic instructional devices, such as closed circuit television, is anticipated.

The main building, five stories high, contains 22 rooms used for instruction, as well as 33 individual fac-

ulty offices, a number of administrative and secretarial offices, utility rooms, and a small student lounge.

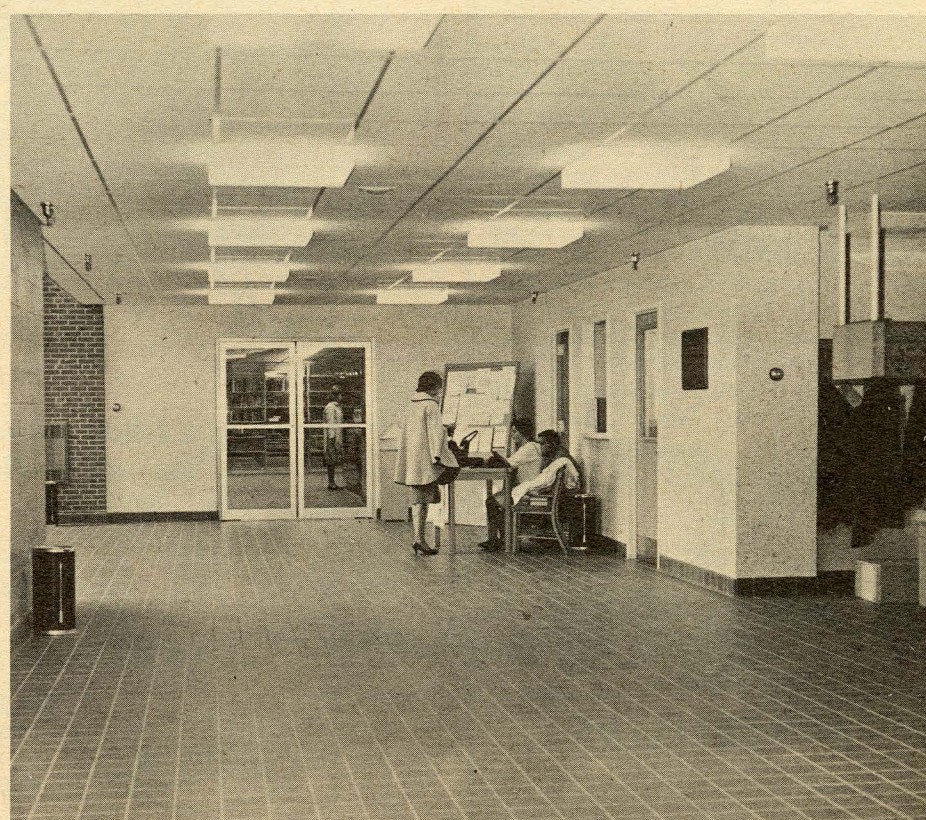
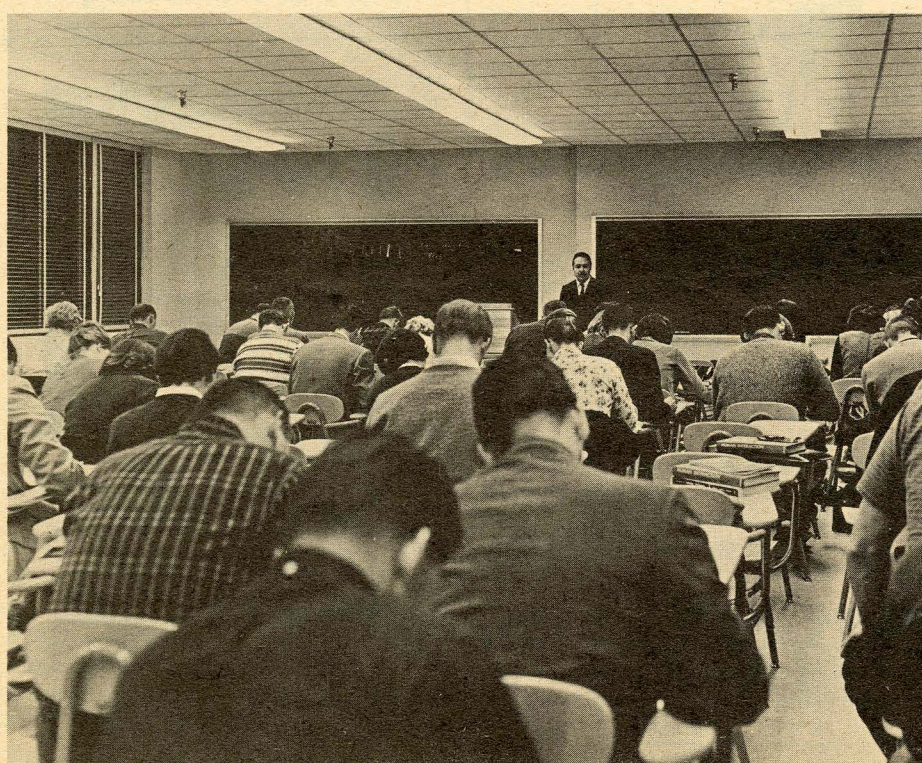
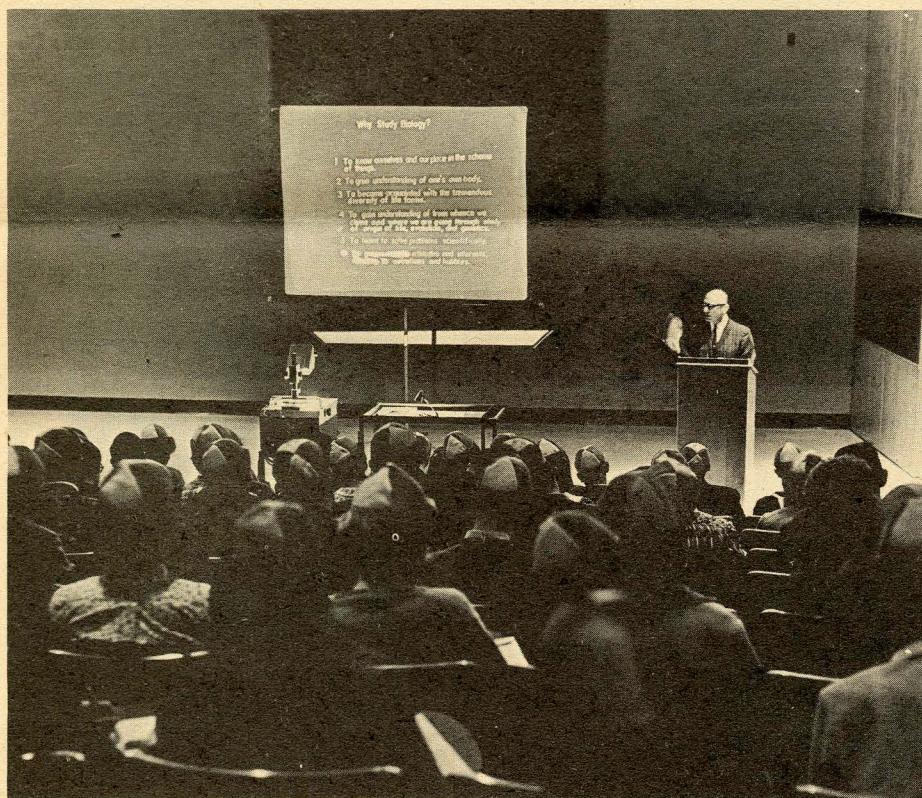
The air-conditioned auditorium seats 250 for lectures, and the largest conventional class room accommodates 130. Other rooms vary in size to fit the needs of various types of classes, ranging from moderately large lecture groups to small conferences and seminars. Rooms of particular interest in-

clude a music room of advanced acoustical design, an art studio, and an art lecture room.

Attached to Bonney Hall and entered directly from the Bonney Hall lobby is a large two-story library building, providing more than one-half acre of floor space for individual study carrels, open stacks of books, and other library needs. Since many thousands of books will be needed before all available stacks can be

put into full use, the east side of the second floor of the library building is now being used to provide five temporary classrooms to relieve the pressure upon Bonney and Payson Smith Halls.

Further information about special features of Luther Bonney Hall will be found in the captions accompanying some of the pictures.



The spacious lobby of Bonney Hall, looking toward the library.